

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4655

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 6443

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: FEA STUDY OF VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM MEASURES

REF: A) CARACAS 6373 B) CARACAS 6374

1. DURING CALL ON ME BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF MOBILE OIL, MR. RAWLEIGH WARNER, HE EXPRESSED HIMSELF VERY FORCEFULLY IN OPPOSITION TO THE FEA STUDY BEING UNDERTAKEN BY ATTORNEY KRUEGER, NOT ONLY AS IT MIGHT AFFECT DELICATE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT BUT LIKEWISE WITH POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS ELSEWHERE ON KRUEGER'S ITINERAY TO THE PERSIAN GULF, IRAN AND INDONESIA.

2. SHORTLY AFTER WARNER HAD DEPARTED, THE PRESIDENT OF CREOLE PETROLEUM, BOB DOLPH, TELEPHONED TO VOICE SERIOUS OBJECTIONS TO KRUEGER'S ACTIVITIES. HE SAID KRUEGER HAD GIVEN HIM THE IMPRESSION THAT HIS LIST OF INTERVIEWS HAD BEEN APPROVED BY ME. I SAID THIS WAS NOT THE FACT. I HAD TENTATIVELY IN MY FIRST MEETING WITH KRUEGER INDICATED A
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READINESS TO SEE IF WE COULD MAKE SOME CONTACTS

FOR HIM ON THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT HE HAD NO STATUS OF REPRESENTING THE USG. HOWEVER, AS INDICATED REFS A AND B, THE SUBSEQUENT FLAP IN VENEZUELA RESULTING FROM THE BENNETT TESTIMONY IN CONGRESS HAS PRESENTED US WITH AN ENTIRELY NEW SITUATION AND IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES I HAD TOLD MR. KRUEGER I WOULD NOT INTERCEDE IN HIS BEHALF IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS WITH VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS, ALTHOUGH I WOULD BE WILLING (REF B) TO REVIEW THE SITUATION WITH HIM EARLY NEXT WEEK.

3. DOLPH SAID THAT IF KRUEGER WERE ALLOWED TO WONDER AROUND CARACAS WITH QUESTIONNAIRE, "IT WOULD CHOP US OFF AT THE KNEES." HE IS VIOLENTLY OPPOSED TO FURTHER ACTIVITIES OF KRUEGER IN VENEZUELA.

4. REQUEST THIS TELEGRAM BE PASSED TO FEA WITH MY RECOMMENDATION THAT, BECAUSE CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE ALTERED THROUGH NO FAULT OF HIS OWN, KRUEGER HAD BETTER DEPART. I HAVE MENTIONED THIS MATTER TO AMBASSADOR STEVENSON IN SO FAR AS KRUEGER'S ACTIVITIES ARE CONCERNED AS A MEMBER OF THE US DELEGATION TO THE LOS CONFERENCE AND HE TELLS ME THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAS HIGHLY VALUED MR. KRUEGER'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DELEGATION, HIS CONTINUED PRESENCE HERE IS NOT ESSENTIAL. MCCLINTOCK

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